



# Family News

*News and Information for Families of individuals served at Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital during the transition to community-based services.*

## MEETING INFORMATION

The time and location of the next meeting of the **Southeast Regional Project Team** will be announced in a future edition.

## HANDY NUMBERS AND WEB SITES:

### MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

1-800-903-9822

[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

Maintained by FSSA to answer your questions.

### DD Waiver Ombudsman:

1-800-622-4484

Available to respond to your comments and questions.

### The Arc of Indiana:

1-800-382-9100

[www.arcind.org](http://www.arcind.org)

[www.thearclink.org](http://www.thearclink.org)

A statewide group that advocates on behalf of people with mental retardation and related disabilities and their families.

### Area Agency on Aging:

1-800-986-3505

[www.iaaa.org](http://www.iaaa.org)

AAAs provide case management, transportation, and other services to older adults and people with disabilities. Call to find the agency closest to you.

### Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living (SICIL):

1-800-845-6914

Part of Indiana's Independent Living Service system, SICIL provides people with disabilities with information and referral, advocacy and other services.

## Update on MSDC Transition

**By Steve Cook,  
Director of the Division of  
Disability, Aging and  
Rehabilitative Services**

Last month, Marilyn Schultz became the state budget director and I became the director for the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS). As the new DDARS director, I will continue to focus on the MSDC transition process.

Since April of 2001, 77 individuals have transitioned from MSDC into community living arrangements. Thus far about half of the persons who have moved into the community have chosen to live in group homes which are facilities serving four to eight individuals. The other placements have been to supported living arrangements, which are homes, generally with three or fewer individuals.

Three transition teams were established at MSDC in February to assist individuals and their families with the transition planning process. Each team is conducting monthly "family meetings" at MSDC to discuss the MSDC transition process.

The current census of MSDC is 194. There are approximately 100 families who have chosen not to move forward with the transition process at this time. In June and

July four individuals left MSDC each month and several individuals have chosen a provider and a living arrangement so it is expected that more individuals will move from MSDC each month.

In February, the Bureau of Quality Improvement started conducting follow up visits for each individual leaving MSDC. These visits continue to take place for everyone who leaves MSDC. Families are provided written reports from these visits as they occur.

In July, the state has approved the development of two new group homes to be developed in Jennings or a contiguous county. These homes will be for four individuals and will be designed and staffed for individuals with high medical needs.

Starting July 1st, the state also began offering limited "outreach services" to persons with developmental disabilities living in the "southeast region". Previously a plan outlined the development of a number of outreach services to support and enhance the network of community based services. The initial outreach services included dental services, behavior management consultation and medical consultation services.

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# Mental Health Association Meetings in Jefferson County

A groundswell of support has greeted an initiative to start a Mental Health Association in Jefferson County and the city of Madison.

The non-profit organization, which has chapters nationwide, is a broad-based group of citizens, consumers and professionals working to:

- Promote the mental health of all citizens through educational programs;
- Increase public understanding and acceptance of persons with a mental illness;
- Foster the delivery of the most appropriate and effective services to all individuals in need; and
- Initiate reform of the mental health service delivery system.

The first meeting, planned to gauge whether there was sufficient interest to start an organization, drew 40 people on April 17. They included consumers, family members and service providers. The consensus: Jefferson County definitely needs a comprehensive non-profit organization to address mental health issues.

Subsequent meetings have resulted in a board of directors, a \$440 grant from the Wallis Family Fund of the Community Foundation and a growing list of needs the group intends to address.

The association's first project was an informational booth at the Jefferson County 4-H Fair July 8-12. Volunteers took turns staffing the booth, where they answered questions about the new organization and distributed information about various types of mental

illness. The Mental Health Association has developed its own resource sheet, "Where to Turn for Help," listing Jefferson County's service providers.

The association took care to include a wide range of people on its board. They represent service providers, the business and professional arena, the justice system, and families affected by mental illness.

Now members are turning their attention to needs of the community.

- One board member, Charles Morgan, is forming a local chapter of the national Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association (DMDA), a support group for the diagnosed and their families.
- Another group of members, led by Circuit Court Judge Ted Todd, has formed a Public Safety Committee to look into ways law officers can interface better with the mentally ill.
- Other members want to address addictions issues, housing, education and advocacy.

Anyone is welcome to attend meetings of the Mental Health Association in Jefferson County. The next general membership meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 11, at 12:15 p.m. at Ponderosa Steak House, 327 Clifty Drive.

For more information, contact Karen Hemberger, vice president, chapter and branch programs of the Mental Health Association in Indiana, at (800) 555-MHAI. Her e-mail address is [khemberger@mentalhealthassociation.com](mailto:khemberger@mentalhealthassociation.com).

## Alison Becker Named Director of BDDS

Alison Becker was appointed director of DDARS's Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services.

She had been deputy director of fiscal services for the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Aging and Rehabilitative Services. She was responsible for the management of the Autism and Developmentally Disabled Medicaid Waivers, fiscal functions and the creation of a Reports and Statistics section.

In her new position, she will oversee local BDDS offices and the placement of individuals with developmental disabilities within these communities. She will also oversee the division's programs and services, including residential and day habilitation support for people with disabilities. Alison began her duties on July 29.

## MSDC Transition Update

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In summary, work continues with a large number of families who have chosen to continue with transition planning efforts and individuals continue to leave MSDC to live in community living arrangements. The development of a new type of group home will provide another option for some individuals and their families to consider. As planned, the implementation of the regional outreach team has started and these additional supports and services will further support individuals who leave MSDC and transition to the community.

# Dan Mohnke Named FWSDC Acting Superintendent

*Mohnke formerly served as superintendent of NISDC*

Dan Mohnke has been named acting superintendent for the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center. Mohnke, who was superintendent at the Northern Indiana State Developmental Center for five years and served as controller for FSSA from 1992-93, has been a consultant for patient care and transitional services for FSSA since June of 2001. His appointment is effective Monday, July 22.

"Dan's wealth of experience, knowledge and commitment to those we serve will be a tremendous asset," said Steve Cook, director of FSSA's Division of Disability Aging and Rehabilitative Services. "I am pleased Dan has agreed to step in as we continue to serve Indiana's most vulnerable citizens."

"I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with the dedicated staff in Fort

Wayne who work hard to serve Hoosiers with developmental disabilities," said Mohnke.

Mohnke previously served in administrative capacities for Memorial Hospital and Health System and Ancilla Health Care.

Mohnke received a master's degree in public affairs and policy from Indiana University and a master's degree in administration from the University of Notre Dame. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from Central Michigan University.

FWSDC's current superintendent, Fred Ryman, is retiring in August and will work with Mohnke during the next month's transition. FSSA's Fort Wayne State Developmental Center provides a variety of services to developmentally disabled individuals and has 301 residents.

## National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

NAMI Indiana is an advocate at the state level for persons affected by severe and persistent mental illness and the leading proponent on consumer and family involvement in care, treatment and recovery. NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) strengthens and empowers local affiliates through advocacy, education and support to their communities. NAMI Indiana links national resources with local affiliate passion and action and coordinates family and consumer involvement in public policy at the state level.

NAMI Indiana coordinates a number of programs that are offered at no cost. They include:

- Family-to-Family Education Program - The program is a 12 - week course directed toward those who have a loved one with a mental illness and taught by trained family members. The curriculum discusses the clinical treatment of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, panic disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and teaches the knowledge and skills that family members need to cope more effectively.
- Support Groups - The groups are led by nationally trained and certified, family member facilitators and tend to meet weekly, biweekly or monthly.

- "In Our Own Voice: Living With A Mental Illness" - An informational outreach program in recovery presented by consumers to other consumers, families, students, professionals, and all people wanting to learn more about mental illness.
- Visions for Tomorrow - A 12-week educational program written for caregivers of children and adolescents with brain or mental disorders, as well as those who exhibit behaviors that strongly suggest such a diagnosis, including ADD/ADHD, autism, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Professional Provider Education - A 10-week outreach program for those in the mental health field. The course focuses on sensitizing staff members to the needs and experiences of family members and loved ones of a person with a mental illness.
- Peer-to-Peer Education Program - A 9-week course on recovery for any person with a serious mental illness and is interested in establishing and maintaining wellness.

For further information on these programs, contact Maryjane Murphy, NAMI, at 800-677-6442 or [mmurphy@nami.org](mailto:mmurphy@nami.org).

## Contact Us!

FSSA maintains a web site, a toll-free phone number, and this newsletter to keep MSDC and MSH families fully informed.

Anyone who would like to receive this newsletter can call the number listed, leave their address, and be added to our mailing list.

The web site features questions discussed at family and employee meetings, the final report from the Governor's Council on State Operated Care Facilities, updates on the *Olmstead* process, articles, and more.

You can visit the web site at:  
[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

If you have questions, comments or concerns, or want to request copies of items on the web site, write to:

**Secretary, FSSA**  
**402 W. Washington St.,**  
**Room W461**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46207-7088**  
**Attn: MSDC/MSH**

or email:  
[OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us](mailto:OfficeOfTheSecretary@fssa.state.in.us)

or call toll-free, 24 hours a day:  
**1-800-903-9822**

You can also call this number if you have concerns about the services that your loved one receives after leaving MSDC or MSH.

## Family and Employee News Available On-Line

Both the *Family News* and *Employee News* newsletters will now be posted on-line each month. FSSA's Muscatatuck/Madison Transition Process web site has added the newsletters as a feature. The web page can be viewed at:  
[www.IN.gov/fssa/transition](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/transition)

## BDDS Offices

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities (BDDS) plans, develops and administers a variety of services for people who have developmental disabilities. Services available for persons with developmental disabilities are community-based, residential alternatives to placement in state institutions and health facilities. Programs support independent living in the least restrictive setting possible and are based on Person-Centered Planning process. Contact the BDDS office nearest you to discuss application and eligibility process.

### District 1

5800 Broadway  
Suite P  
Merrillville, IN 46410  
Phone: 219-887-0503  
1-877-216-3053, Fax: 219-985-8652  
Counties served: Jasper, Lake, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke

### District 2

215 S. St. Joseph St., Suite 401  
South Bend, IN 46601-2022  
Phone: 574-232-1412  
1-877-218-3059, Fax: 574-287-5482  
Counties Served: Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Howard, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, St. Joseph, Tipton and Wabash

### District 3

219 W. Wayne St.  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802  
Phone: 260-423-2571  
1-877-218-3061, Fax: 260-424-2830  
Counties served: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells and Whitley

### District 4

1007 Mill Pond Rd. Ste. A  
Greencastle, IN 46135-1887  
Phone: 765-653-2468  
1-877-218-3096, Fax: 765-653-7152  
Counties served: Benton, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Fountain, Monroe, Montgomery, Owens, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Warren and White

### Central Office

P.O. Box 7083  
Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083  
1-800-545-2320, Fax: 317-233-2320

### District 5

4701 N. Keystone, Suite 200  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-1541  
Phone: 317-254-2065  
1-877-218-3530, Fax: 317-254-2075  
County served: Marion

### District 6

1100 Martin Luther King Blvd.,  
Suite 4  
Muncie, IN 47304  
Phone: 765-288-6516  
1-877-218-3531, Fax: 765-288-8529  
Counties served: Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Union and Wayne

### District 7

700 E. Walnut St.  
Evansville, IN 47713  
Phone: 812-423-8449  
1-877-218-3528, Fax: 812-428-4146  
Counties served: Daviess, Dubois, Gibson, Greene, Knox, Martin, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick

### District 8

P.O. Box 2517  
1452 Vaxter Ave.  
Clarksville, IN 47131-2517  
Phone: 812-283-1040  
1-877-218-3529, Fax: 812-285-9533  
200 E. Third St.  
P.O. Box 903  
Seymour, IN 47274-0930  
Phone: 812-522-5859  
1-877-218-3532, Fax: 812-523-1160

Counties served: Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Lawrence, Orange, Scott and Washington

### District 9

4701 N. Keystone, Suite 200  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-1541  
Phone: (317) 254-2065  
1-877-218-3530, Fax: 317-610-3164  
Counties served: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan and Shelby